

Message Text

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ATTENTION ANDREW, IO/HDC
EHRLICH, DHEW/OIH

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TBIO WHO

SUBJ: WHO EXPERT MEETING ON NEW JERSEY INFLUENZA

REF: STATE 086570

1. IN RESPONSE REFTEL, REPORT FOLLOWS ON WHO NEW JERSEY INFLUENZA MEETING APRIL 7-9. INFORMATION COMES FROM DISCUSSIONS WITH WHO SECRETARIAT TODAY ON WHO FINAL REPORT NOW IN PREPARATION AND UPDATES DRAFT REPORT U.S. EXPERTS DR W.R. DOWDLE AND DR J.D. MILLAR, CDC, ATLANTA, CARRIED BACK TO U.S. THIS PAST WEEKEND.

2. TWENTY-TWO INTERNATIONAL FLU EXPERTS FROM SIXTEEN COUNTRIES MET AT WHO HEADQUARTERS APRIL 7-9 TO DISCUSS AND REVIEW 1) PRESENT SITUATION ON INFLUENZA IN WORLD, 2) NEW JERSEY INFLUENZA VIRUS INFECTION OF MAN IN U.S., 3) WHO ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO NEW JERSEY OUTBREAK, 4) APPROACHES BY COUNTRIES IN RESPECT TO VACCINATION, 5) PREPARATION OF VACCINE, AND 6) CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

3. IN VIEW OF EXTENSIVE INFORMATION RECEIVED IN WHO MEETINGS THIS MORNING, MISSION SENDING THREE CABLES "IMMEDIATE" IN ORDER TO PROVIDE COMPLETE COVERAGE FOR WHITE HOUSE MEETING. THIS CABLE CONTAINS WHO CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS RESULTING FROM WHO EXPERT MEETING.

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4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1.) A/NJ/76 (HSW/N1) VIRUSES CAUSED AN OUTBREAK IN FORT DIX, NEW JERSEY, IN JANUARY 1976, WITH APPROXIMATELY 500 MEN BEING INFECTED. EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATIONS IN U.S. HAVE REVEALED NO FURTHER INFECTIONS SINCE THAT TIME. IT IS ENTIRELY POSSIBLE THIS MAY HAVE BEEN A UNIQUE EVENT IN A MILITARY RECRUIT POPULATION AND WILL NOT LEAD TO WIDE-SPREAD EPIDEMICS AS EXPERIENCED IN 1957/58 AND 1968/69.

2.) AT PRESENT, THE ONLY RECOMMENDED MEANS TO MODIFY THE INCIDENCE OF INFLUENZA IN MAN IS BY THE USE OF VACCINES PREPARED WITH THE NEW EPIDEMIC STRAINS. BUT EVEN THIS MEASURE, ALTHOUGH USEFUL IN PREVENTING THE DISEASE IN INDIVIDUAL CASES, AND IN LIMITING THE SPREAD IN WELL-VACCINATED COMMUNITIES, WILL NOT CONTROL OR PREVENT THE SPREAD OF INFLUENZA IN THE WORLD. THEREFORE, IF EXTENSIVE EPIDEMICS DO OCCUR, OTHER MEASURES WILL HAVE TO BE TAKEN, PARTICULARLY IN COUNTRIES WHERE VACCINE MAY ONLY BE AVAILABLE IN LIMITED QUANTITIES, OR NOT AT ALL. EVEN IF VACCINE WERE UNIVERSALLY AVAILABLE, THE LOGISTIC PROBLEMS IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF VACCINE ON A LARGE SCALE WOULD, IN MANY INSTANCES, BE INSURMOUNTABLE.

3.) THEREFORE, HEALTH AUTHORITIES SHOULD DISSEMINATE INFORMATION TO THE MEDICAL PROFESSION AND TO THE PUBLIC ON THE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL AND CLINICAL BEHAVIOR OF THE DISEASE AND ON SIMPLE METHODS OF TREATMENT OF UNCOMPLICATED CASES, AND SHOULD PREPARE CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR THE ADAPTATION OF EXISTING HEALTH SERVICES TO A POTENTIALLY EXCEPTIONAL SITUATION. WHENEVER POSSIBLE, STOCKPILING OF RELEVANT ANTIBIOTICS AND OTHER USEFUL MEDICAMENTS SHOULD BE INVISAGED.

4.) SURVEILLANCE ON BOTH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS SHOULD BE INCREASED TO DETECT POSSIBLE SPREAD OF A/NJ-LIKE STRAINS IN HUMANS AND SWINE. FOR THIS PURPOSE, WHO WILL SUPPLY NATIONAL INFLUENZA CENTERS WITH SUFFICIENT AMOUNTS OF SUITABLE TEST ANTIGEN AND SPECIFIC ANTISERA FOR SEROLOGICAL SURVEYS AND IDENTIFICATION OF ISOLATES. THE CO-OPERATION OF LOCAL VETERINARY AUTHORITIES SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED.

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5. EMBRYONATED EGGS ARE RECOMMENDED FOR ISOLATION OF A/NEW JERSEY-LIKE STRAINS; RHESUS MONKEY KIDNEY CELL CULTURES HAVE BEEN SHOWN TO BE LESS SENSITIVE. NEWLY ISOLATED STRAINS REACTING WITH HSWIN1 ANTISERA SHOULD BE FORWARDED IMMEDIATELY TO THE WHO COLLABORATING CENTRES IN ATLANTA (CDC) OR LONDON (MILL HILL OR COLINDALE). ALL INFORMATION RELATING TO SWINE INFLUENZA-LIKE INFECTIONS OF MAN SHOULD BE REGULARLY SUPPLIED TO THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION, GENEVA.

6.) IT IS HIGHLY DESIRABLE THAT MORE ATTENTION SHOULD BE PAID TO THE ECOLOGY OF INFLUENZA VIRUSES, NOTABLY WITH RESPECT TO THE INTER-RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN HUMAN AND ANIMAL INFLUENZA VIRUSES. THE FORT DIX INCIDENT CLEARLY SHOWS THAT THIS WORK SHOULD BE MARKEDLY EXPANDED, ESPECIALLY IN RESPECT OF THE SURVEILLANCE PROCEDURE, THE ISOLATION AND IDENTIFICATION OF INFLUENZA STRAIN FROM ANIMAL RESERVOIRS, AND A BETTER GEOGRAPHICAL MAPPING OF ANIMAL INFLUENZA THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. THE POSSIBILITY OF ERADICATING INFLUENZA FROM SWINE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED.

7. PRODUCTION SHOULD BE CONTINUED OF A/VICTORIA/3/75 AND B/HONG KONG/5/72 VACCINE AS RECOMMENDED BY THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION IN JANUARY 1976. THESE OR RELATED STRAINS MAY STILL BE ANTICIPATED TO BE IN CIRCULATION DURING THE COMING INFLUENZA SEASON. COUNTRIES CURRENTLY PRODUCING INFLUENZA VACCINE SHOULD ALSO INITIATE PRODUCTION OF AN INACTIVATED VACCINE MADE FROM A/NEW JERSEY STRAINS OR THEIR HIGH-YIELDING RECOMBINANTS. TWO RECOMBINANTS OF A/NEW JERSEY/76 (HSW1N1) AND A/PR/8/34 HAVE BEEN MADE AVAILABLE AND CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION. RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING POTENCY AND DOSAGE WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE WHEN RESULTS OF FORTHCOMING VACCINE TRIALS ARE KNOWN.

8. THREE POSSIBLE STRATEGIES FOR THE USE OF AN INACTIVATED A/NEW JERSEY-LIKE VACCINE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

(A) STORAGE IN BULK AS AN EMERGENCY MEASURE FOR USE IN THE EVENT OF EPIDEMIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE OF FURTHER VIRUS SPREAD;

(B) ADDITION TO THE CURRENTLY RECOMMENDED VACCINES;

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(C) ADMINISTRATION AS A MONOVALENT VACCINE.

9. EACH COUNTRY CURRENTLY PRODUCING VACCINES SHOULD DECIDE WHICH OF THESE COURSES IS MOST APPROPRIATE FOR ITS RESOURCES AND NEEDS. THIS MAY BE BASED ON THE INFORMATION WHICH WILL BE OBTAINED DURING THE NEXT FEW MONTHS VIA THE SURVEILLANCE NETWORK.

10. INTRADERMAL VACCINATION WITH SMALL DOSES HAS BEEN PROPOSED AS A MEANS OF SUBSTANTIALLY DECREASING THE REQUIRED AMOUNT OF VACCINE. ALTHOUGH THIS METHOD HAS BEEN SHOWN TO BE EFFECTIVE IN BOOSTING ANTIBODY, IT IS LESS EFFECTIVE IN PRIMARY VACCINATION AND THEREFORE IS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR A/NEW JERSEY-LIKE VACCINES.

11.) PENDING REPORTS OF FURTHER VIRUS SPREAD, THE USE OF LIVE ATTENUATED VACCINES FROM THE A/NEW JERSEY STRAIN SHOULD BE LIMITED TO EXPERIMENTAL STUDIES PERFORMED UNDER SUITABLE CONTAINMENT CONDITIONS. EXTREME CAUTION IS NECESSARY BECAUSE OF THE DANGER OF POSSIBLE REVERSION TO VIRULENCE OR RECOMBINATION WITH OTHER INFLUENZA STRAINS, AND THE CONSEQUENT RISK OF SPREAD TO SUSCEPTIBLE HUMAN OR ANIMAL HOSTS.

5. COMMENT. THESE ARE THE CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS THAT WILL APPEAR IN THE WHO FINAL OFFICIAL REPORT STILL IN PREPARATION. CABLE NUMBER TWO PROVIDES REMAINING INFORMATION OUTLINED IN PARA 2) WHICH WILL APPEAR IN FINAL REPORT. CABLE NUMBER THREE GIVES A) LIST OF PARTICIPANTS WHO ATTENDED MEETING, B) WHO PRESS RELEASE, AND C) TRANSLATION OF HEADLINE ARTICLE FROM GENEVA FRENCH NEWSPAPER (TRIBUNE DE GENEVE) WHICH APPEARED THIS WEEKEND.
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